

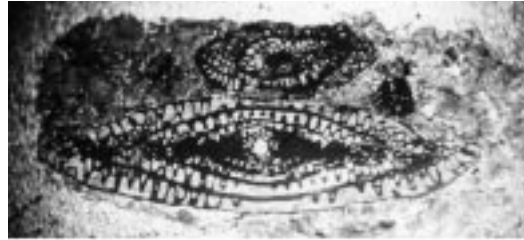
George J. Verville Award in Paleontology

Dr. George J. Verville, with matching corporate support from BP, has recently established an endowment at the UW Foundation for the purpose of making an annual award to a graduate student in paleontology. According to his wishes, the endowment will provide around \$500 annually to be awarded to a graduate student in paleontology and the award will be known as the “George J. Verville Award in Paleontology”.

Dr. Verville received the MS in 1948 and the PhD in 1951 from our department. In his letter, he says; “When I was a student there were no funds available to help the graduate student with expenses related to photography, thin-sectioning, typing, etc. I have always wanted to set up a small fund that would make some

monies available to the student for such expenses.”

We are very grateful to Dr. Verville for remembering the department with such generosity.



George Verville is an authority on fusulinid microfossils such as shown here.

GEOLOGY AND GEOPHYSICS LIBRARY

Marie Dvorzak

During the past few years, the library system has focused its efforts on providing patron access to electronic resources.

The original goal was to provide bibliographic and reference resources to the UW community electronically. Almost all of these resources such as GeoRef, Readers Guide and the Encyclopedia Britannica have migrated to Web-based access. Now more than 90% of these reference tools are available to the UW community from their office and home computers.

The second aim, more recent, has been to provide access to full text electronic journals. Many commercial publishers and a growing number of not-for-profit organizations now have electronic versions of their journals on the web, thus making them available from most computers. Typically these electronic versions begin with 1995 issues or later. However back issues of a growing number of titles, including such well known journals as *Science* and the Royal Society of London publications, have now been digitized. So issues from even the 1800's are now available on the web.

Recently the UW System has begun a new initiative, to provide ebooks, electronic versions of books. There is no standard way to deliver ebooks. Some vendors are delivering ebooks to individual computers the same way that most electronic journals are provided. Other vendors are putting ebooks on separate devices, often small handheld devices which can be read anywhere.

While reasonable pricing, easy access and acceptable licenses continue to generate concerns, long term storage is a special issue for libraries. Several solutions have been proposed for the long term storage of electronic information. As yet, none have wide spread support. As more titles are published either wholly or principally in digital format, the lack of suitable storage is a growing problem.

Intellectual property rights is another issue with broad societal implications. While the news has been dominated by recent legal efforts to ensure intellectual property rights in music and visual productions, there is great interest by producers and distributors of all types of intellectual property to secure their rights through increased legal protection, restrictive licensing agreements and controlled access. How these issues are resolved will have profound effects on what materials libraries provide electronically and to whom.

By using gift monies donated to its acquisitions fund, the library has acquired numerous paper editions from bookdealers quite rapidly. In spite of the increasing emphasis on electronic access, there is a continuing need to acquire materials in paper. The Internet is proving to be a great way to add or replace out-of-print titles for the Geology Library.